

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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NESCO/AIDAC

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SUBJECT: SAUDI ARABIA JOINS RANKS OF FUNDS-IN-TRUST
DONORS FOR UNESCO.

1. SUMMARY: SAUDI ARABIA RECENTLY MADE ONE MILLION
DOLLAR GRANT FOR EDUCATION PROJECTS IN SEVEN SAHEL
COUNTRIES TO BE ADMINISTERED BY UNESCO UNDER FUNDS-IN-
TRUST (F.I.T.) PROGRAM. UNESCO'S F.I.T. PROGRAM HAS
EXECUTED SOME TWENTY MILLION DOLLAR IN GRANTS FROM
NORDIC COUNTRIES PLUS JAPAN AND FRG. SAUDI ARABIA
DONATION IS FIRST ENTRY TO UNESCO F.I.T. BY MIDDLE
EAST OIL PRODUCERS. UNESCO F.I.T. PROGRAM GENERALLY
CONSIDERED A WELL CONCEIVED AND WELL MANAGED OPERATION.
END SUMMARY.

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2. ANNOUNCEMENT RECENTLY MADE OF ONE MILLION DOLLAR GRANT FROM SAUDI ARABIA TO SEVEN SAHEL COUNTRIES TO BE ADMINISTERED BY UNESCO. GRANT WILL BE USED TO FINANCE EDUCATION PROJECTS IN CHAD, GAMBIA, MALI, MAURETANIA, NIGER, SENEGAL AND UPPER VOLTA. DECISION HAD BEEN MADE BY LATE KING FAISAL BUT FUNDS WERE JUST RECENTLY TURNED OVER TO UNESCO.

3. THIS IS THE FIRST PARTICIPATION BY A MIDDLE-EAST OIL PRODUCING COUNTRY IN UNESCO'S FUNDS-IN-TRUST PROGRAM. PARTICIPANTS TO DATE HAVE BEEN NORWAY, SWEDEN, DENMARK, FINLAND, JAPAN AND FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY PLUS SOME PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS. SO FAR SOME \$ 20 MILLION HAS BEEN ADMINISTERED BY UNESCO UNDER FUNDS-IN-TRUST. PROJECTS ARE FOUND IN MOST WORLD REGIONS BUT MOST ARE IN AFRICA AND MOST ARE IN EDUCATION.

4. PROCEDURES ARE GENERALLY AS FOLLOWS: DONOR IDENTIFIES THE COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES IT WISHES TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE, AND SPECIFIES FIELDS IN WHICH IT INTERESTED SUCH AS PRIMARY EDUCATION, TEACHER TRAINING, EDUCATION FOR GIRLS, ETC. UNESCO CONFERS WITH POTENTIAL RECIPIENT AND PREPARES PROJECT PROPOSALS WHICH ARE APPROVED BY DONOR AND RECIPIENT. UNESCO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTERING ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDES PERIODIC REPORTS TO DONOR ON PROGRESS AND RESULTS.

5. COMMENTS: U.S. PERMDEL TO UNESCO HAS GENERALLY BEEN WELL IMPRESSED WITH UNESCO'S FUNDS-IN-TRUST PROGRAM. OTHER THAN OCCASIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN ANY AID OPERATION, WE FEEL THAT IT HAS BEEN A USEFUL, FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC OPERATION. IT TENDS TO RESPOND MORE DIRECTLY TO DESIRES OF RECIPIENT AND TO INTERESTS OF DONORS THAN DO SOME REGULAR BUDGET PROGRAMS WITH THEIR GENERALLY MORE BUREAUCRATIC AND DOCTRINARE APPROACH.

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